



From the Director of Victim Services

The COVID-19 pandemic and its ripple effect are changing the way we live. But one thing did not change – domestic violence. From April to June 2020 experts now point to a startling 75% increase in the number of calls from victims quarantined for months with people who hurt them when compared to the same time period last year.

Domestic violence is not selfish and it affects every Tennessean. It harms our communities, weakens the foundation of our state, and hurts those we love most. Domestic violence is an indignity to our basic decency and humanity, and it must end. During National Domestic Violence Awareness month, we acknowledge the progress made in reducing these shameful crimes, embrace the basic human right to be free from violence and abuse, and recognize that more work remains until every individual is able to live free from fear.

This month, we recognize the survivors and victims of abuse across the state whose courage inspires us all. We should commit to offering a helping hand to those most in need, and remind them that they are not alone. We also remember those who lost their lives to domestic lives.

Tamika Dobbins



October 2020

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Victim Services Mission

To support victims, their families, and the laws that protect their rights, while utilizing recognized principles of offender behavioral change to help reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.

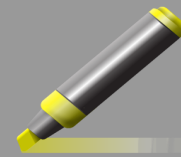
Victim Services Provides:

- Information regarding the status of offenders in prison with felony convictions
- Registration for victim notification
- Assistance with threats, unwanted calls/correspondence from an offender

Victim Services Activities:

- Community education programs
- Coordination with the Board of Parole, Attorney General's Office, and the Tennessee District Attorney General's Office to respond to victims' concerns
- Education to TDOC staff to increase awareness of victims' issues
- Collaboration with other victim advocates

Victims Services Highlights....Let's meet



Cathy Gurley serves as CEO of the nonprofit You Have the Power...Know How to Use It (YHTP), also known as You Have the Power or YHTP. The agency provides a Victim Impact Curriculum at the Debra K. Johnson Rehabilitation Center (DJRC), formerly known as the Tennessee Prison for Women, helping inmates learn problem-solving and decision-making skills that will help them reenter society when released.

The past year has brought some challenges to everyone, and those in Victim Services are no exception. Cathy is grateful for the strong partnership YHTP enjoys with TDOC and the Board of Parole, which

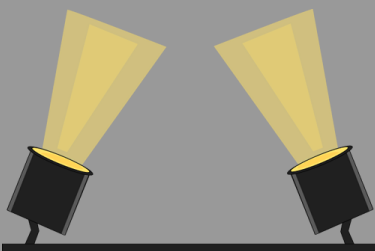
allows YHTP to continue to serve the women at DJRC during the COVID epidemic. TDOC, the warden, and the entire DJRC staff have stepped up to adapt the program by delivering lessons and worksheets each week. Each week the participants return the work with their thoughts and questions. Cathy says, "While we look forward to the time we can work face to face, this has become a wonderful way for the facilitators and participants to reach out and stay connected."

Since joining YHTP in 2012, Cathy has built and expanded on YHTP's programming and outreach to victims and communities affected by crime. Under her leadership, she and her team created a juvenile impact curriculum, bullying presentations for middle schools, the sex trafficking documentary No Girl's Dream, and updated the adult victim impact curriculum presented to incarcerated in jails and prison around the country.

In addition to her work with YHTP, Cathy serves on the executive committee of the Nashville DV Safety Assessment, and serves on the Domestic Death Review Team, Sexual Offenders Treatment Board, and is a member of the Nashville Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Whenever possible, Cathy enjoys visiting her daughter, Meagan, and her four grandchildren in South Texas. Her eldest grandson lives with her in Nashville, trying to figure out a life path that combines his love of working with children and sports. She is also a devoted dog mom to her Shih Tzu, Crayon, who has spent the past few months on Cathy's feet during Zoom calls.

One of the fun things YHTP does is an annual online auction with amazing treasures from throughout the region--perfect for holiday gift-giving! (The auction will open November 1st; check out yhtp.org for more information.



From the start, the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS) strived to promote positive outcomes and safety for the general public and especially for those directly affected by criminal acts. In addition to the specific rights afforded to victims of crime under the Commission's Rules (3.108 and 3.108-1), the National Office enthusiastically announces a collaborative tool to provide further support and voice to those affected by the transfer and supervision of interstate parolees and probationers.

Upon a recommendation from John Gillis, ex-officio appointee to the ICAOS Executive Committee from the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA), ICAOS and NOVA developed a direct email contact address to assist victims and family members in search of support and advocacy and meet a need for enhanced communication: ICAOS-help@trynova.org

Monitored by victim advocates from NOVA, the contact email allows those most affected by Compact offenders to ask questions and receive a response within one business day. As well, this tool has the potential to provide the Commission with specific data about victim needs. Understanding those needs can better help us design and implement targeted and effective resources, policies, and programs.



TDOC Central Office Monthly Stats

Telephone Calls		Notifications	
	September		September
Phone calls Received/Returned	119	Registration	191
Parties Registered for Notifications	103	Movement	46
Harassment/Threats/No Contact	5	Advance Release	1,224
Referrals	32	Final Release *	77
Release/Parole Inquiry	17	Death	15
Other	53	Other	15

New Claim Submission for Criminal Injuries Compensation Program

The Tennessee Department of Treasury Division of Claims and Risk Management is excited to announce the online claim submission portal for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Program is now live at Treasury.tn.gov/Injury. The portal will be used for claimants requesting assistance and allows a more streamlined process for related documentation.

Benefits of online filing include:

A claimant (or an attorney representing a claimant) may now utilize the portal for submission of initial claims and should be prepared for questions related to the request, including crime information.

The portal accepts scanned documents available during the initial filing in Word or PDF format.

A claimant receives a confirmation of submission relatively quickly to confirm the submission was saved.

While a claimant cannot file additional documents on an open claim through the portal, a claimant may reply to an email to submit more documents.

A claimant who was previously approved for compensation may request additional expenses through the portal where designated.

All communications to filing parties will be sent electronically to the individual whose email is associated with the request filed online. These communications will include confirmations of submission, requests for additional information, and notifications of decisions.

Please note electronic notifications will arrive from notifications@origamirisk.com and those filing should be aware of this to ensure email does not segregate these into junk or spam folders.

If you have any questions, please contact Criminal.Injury@tn.gov.

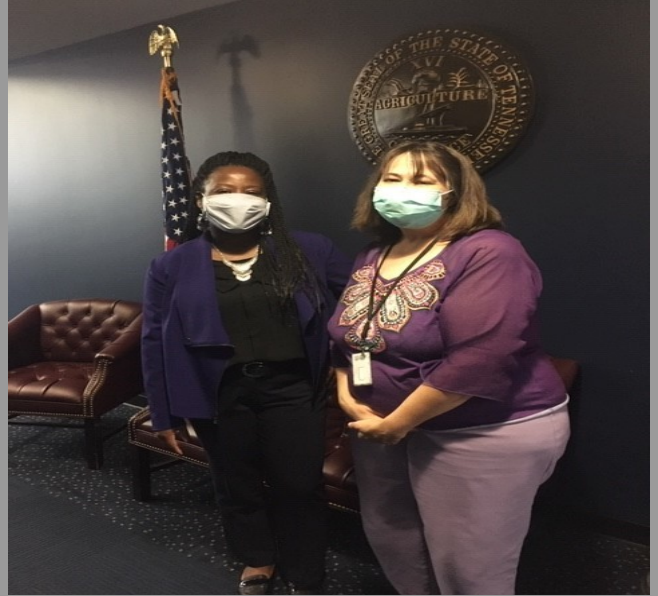
Criminal Injuries Compensation Program
Division of Claims and Risk Management
Tennessee Treasury Department

Purple with a Purpose

October 7th was designated as “Purple with a Purpose” day and staff was encouraged to wear the color purple in observance of domestic violence victims in Tennessee. Thank you to those who participated and sent in photos!



Debra Robinson , VWC 10th Judicial District



Central Office Victim Services Staff



Ms. Crump, Education



NWCX instructors

Announcements



SAVE THE DATE


**TENNESSEE SEASON
TO REMEMBER**
DECEMBER 3, 2020
at 5:30 P.M.




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Tennessee Department

WHAT VICTIMS CAN DO IF THEY'RE A

WHAT YOU CAN DO IF YOU ARE A
VICTIM OF CRIME



Tennessee Domestic Violence Hotline - 800-356-6767

National Domestic Violence Hotline - 800.799.SAFE

Battered Women's Justice Project - 800.903.0111

Mothers Against Drunk Driving - 877.MADD.HELP

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - 800.843.5678

Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline—1-855-558-6484

National Human Trafficking Hotline - 888.373.7888

Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund - 615.741.2734

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